

**CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES TECH UNIT DIRECTOR CATHERINE
MCKENZIE WINS CENIC'S 2012 OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION
AWARD**

March 16, 2012 — La Mirada, CA — Catherine McKenzie, retired Director of the Technology Unit for the California Community Colleges, has been honored by the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC) as recipient of the **2012 Outstanding Individual Contribution Award**.

Catherine McKenzie began working at the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) in 1998. As Director of the Technology Unit, she oversaw the Telecommunications and Technology Infrastructure Program (TTIP), which distributes technology related funds to the California Community Colleges and oversees and funds several system-wide projects, such as 3C Media Solutions (video streaming and web services), CCC Confer (e-conferencing), CENIC services (networking and videoconferencing), and the California Virtual Campus (CVC).

In addition to her work at the CCCCCO, Catherine has been dedicated to supporting CENIC and CalREN in multiple ways. She chaired the CENIC Conference Program Committee in 2007, and contributed as a member of the Conference Program Committee for several additional years. For many years Catherine was a regular participant in discussions at DC-TAC and CalREN Video Services (CVS) Oversight Committee meetings, and she served on the CENIC Board of Directors from 2004 to 2011. At CENIC's request, Catherine represented California on Internet2's K20 Advisory Council for a number of years.

In working with CENIC, Catherine consistently sought opportunities to engage in joint efforts between CENIC and the CCCCCO. Catherine was a key contact at the CCCCCO in the transition of CENIC's video services to K20video.org, a collaborative effort that combined CalREN Video Services with K12video.org, lowering the cost video services for CENIC members.

In 2008, Catherine drew upon her knowledge of technology, her former elementary teaching experiences, and her knowledge of classroom teachers' needs, to create the K20 California Educational Technology Collaborative. Known for her zeal to do things, not just to have conversations, Catherine created an entity within CENIC that allowed educators, agency officials and representatives from the business and non-profit sectors to work together on joint projects that addressed new approaches to teaching and learning with technologies. The K20 CETC launched several initiatives in a wide range of areas including e-portfolios, the CAHSEE Stepping Into Your Future project (a statewide effort to support 18 and 19 year olds pass the state's high school exit exam and earn a diploma), and more.

Four other annual Innovations on Networking Awards are given by CENIC to highlight exemplary innovations that leverage ultra high-bandwidth networking, particularly where those innovations have the potential to revolutionize the ways in which instruction and research are conducted, or where they further the deployment of broadband in underserved areas.

California's education and research communities leverage their networking resources under CENIC, the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California, in order to obtain cost-effective, high-bandwidth networking to support their missions and answer the needs of their faculty, staff, and students. CENIC designs, implements, and operates CalREN, the California Research and Education Network, a high-bandwidth, high-capacity Internet network specially designed to meet the unique requirements of these communities, and to which the vast majority of the state's K-20 educational institutions are connected. In order to facilitate collaboration in education and research, CENIC also provides connectivity to non-California institutions and industry research organizations with which CENIC's Associate researchers and educators are engaged.

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